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RARE COLLECTION ABOUT KASHMIR: SURVEY AND DOCUMENTATION

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ABSTRACT

Kashmir has been a fascinating subject for authors and analysts. Volumes have been documented and published about its multi-faceted aspects in varied forms like manuscripts, rare books and images available in a number of institutions, libraries and museums worldwide. The study explores the institutions and libraries worldwide possessing rare books (published before 1920) about Kashmir using online survey method and documents their bibliographical details. The study aims to analyze subject, chronology and country wise collection strength. The study shows that the maximum collection of the rare books is on travelogue 32.48% followed by Shaivism[1] 8.7%. While as the collection on other subjects lies in the range of 2.54%-5.53% with least of 2.54% on Grammar. Literature of 20th century is preserved by maximum of libraries (53.89%) followed by 19th century (44.93%), 18th century (1.08%) and 17th century (0.09%) and none of the library except Cambridge University library possesses a publication of 17th century. The treasure of rare books lies maximum in United States of America (56.7%) followed by Great Britain (35%), Canada(6%), Australia (1.8%) with least in Thailand (0.45%).

Keywords: Rare Books; Rare Books Collections; Kashmir; Manuscripts; Paintings.

1 INTROUCTION

Kashmir has been a center of attraction for philosophers and litterateurs, beauty seekers and people of different interests from centuries. It is not only because of the scenic beauty of its snow caped mountain ranges, myriad lakes, changing hues of majestic china's and crystal clear springs but also because of its rich cultural heritage and contribution to Philosophy, Religion, Literature, Art and Craft (KAW,

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2004a). Kashmir as a nursery of learning and religion has to credit its multi-dimensional and multi-faceted contributions to the cultural heritage. There is no segment of human learning and abstract thought which intellectuals and thinkers of Kashmir have not nourished and enriched with loftiness of their thought and sublimate of their expression. The prolific faculties that they were endowed with have found remarkable expression in the annals of Philosophy, Aesthetics, Poetics, Sculpture and Architecture and more than most in Mathematics, Astronomy and Astrology (KOUL,2001).

For centuries, Kashmir has been a fascinating subject for authors and analysts. Texts have been written about its multi-faceted aspects. The shared characteristics are evident in the sub continental literatures from the earliest period to the modern one – characteristics that reveal how a literary movement, religious or secular, passes from one language area to another. It is the rule of nature that a change in thinking results in the change in action, which in turn changes the environment (DHAR, 2000).

All these changes are reflected in the literature produced from time to time by a significant amount of academics and poets of Kashmir, such as: Sheikh Noor Mukundram, Pandit Saheb Ram Kaul, Govind Koul, Sahajabhatta, Nityanand and others. The ancient remains of literary record and monuments clearly indicate the heights achieved by them. Their life and work has not only brought honor to Kashmir but also to the world of universal knowledge. Scholars of Kashmir like Kalhan, Jonraj, Abhinavgupta, Somanand, Uptaldev, Somdev, Kshemendra and other, transformed Kashmir into an intellectual center of reputation through their scholarly attainments and this was how on the basis of trendsetting contributions to the total canvas of learning and scholarship, Kashmir earned the honored appellation of “Sharda Peeth”, a hallowed center of learning. Besides, many western orientalists like Aurel Stein, George Buhler, Sir George Grierson, Dr. David Brained Spooner, Professor Sten Konow, Dr. Eugen Hultzen, Professor J. Voget, Professor Maurice Winternitz, Dr. Carl Kellor, Sir john Marshall, Professor Franklin Edgerton worked on the Kashmir Literature, History, Geography, Language, Culture etc. in one or the other way (GANJOO, [n.d.]).

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Their contribution resulted in vast literature on various facets of Kashmir that is presently available in the form of manuscripts, books, images and paintings in the worldwide. A number of institutions, libraries and museums like India Office Library, British Library, Library of Congress, Yale University Library, Cambridge University Library, Washington University Library etc., have preserved these collections. Some of these institutions have made the collection about Kashmir available online, while some have listed them in their online catalogues and few of the collection remain uncatalogued in certain institutions.

2 PROBLEM

Though a number of libraries, institutions and museums are preserving the rich treasure of manuscripts about Kashmir, hardly any effort has been made to explore and identity the institutions were they are lying in. The study at hand explores the institutions featuring manuscripts, books and images about Kashmir as a part of their collection. The study focuses on compiling metadata of the available collection of manuscripts, books and images about Kashmir.

3 SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

The study is confined to identify rare books, images (before 1920) and manuscripts about Kashmir in the libraries of Canada, Great Britain, USA, Australia and Thailand. The objectives are: a) To explore the manuscripts, rare books and images about Kashmir; b) To compile bibliographical details of manuscripts, rare books and images about Kashmir; c) Verify the subject; d) Verify the chronology.

5 METHODOLOGY

The study at hand is carried out using an online survey and observation to gather data. To accomplish the first objective, an online survey was carried to identify various libraries possessing manuscripts, rare books and images from Canada, Great Britain, USA, Australia and Thailand by making use of Directory of ‘Major Libraries of

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the world' and a website 'Cashmerian Sanscritist'. Libraries were selected using simple random sampling. To fulfill the second objective, records pertaining to manuscripts, rare books and images were extracted and the necessary information was documented.

6 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Though mass of literature about Kashmir have been preserved by institutions, museums and libraries at national and international level but meager efforts have been put to get knowhow about Kashmir collection.

George Buhler undertook a task in 1870's to search Sanskrit manuscripts in Kashmir. The result lead to the collection of more than 300 pieces of Kashmiri great works for deposit in the government publication (KAW, 2004b). The National Library of Pakistan has acquired 555 manuscripts and other collection. Special collection includes rare handwritten manuscripts in Persian language relating to history of Kashmir (AHSAAN, 2009).

Shaheen (2007) reveals that the Khurshid National Library Muzaffarabad has a special section known as 'Kashmir Collection' that houses world's largest collection of materials on Kashmir, including some manuscripts, more than 3,500 books and more than 40,000 documents related to the history of Jammu[2] and Kashmir and its freedom movement either in original or in micro film/fiche or photocopy form. Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library has a rich collection of manuscripts in Persian, Arabic, Urdu and other languages available in 30 volumes set descriptive catalogue. Besides certain manuscripts relating to Kashmir has been introduced in the catalogue (CHANDRASHEKHAR, 2007).

Barbara (1992) reveals that New York Public Library Catalogue covers all Islamic manuscripts. Besides, 13 Kashmir manuscripts are described in the catalogue. A photograph-and-slide collection is being developed by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), with a collection of over one lakh art objects and illustrated miniatures in Indian and foreign collections including 343 Kashmir Miniature paintings (GAUR, 2008).

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Das (2009) reveals that Schmitz worked on the miniatures and illustrated manuscripts over a long period of time. Close to 4,000 miniatures and 35 albums containing an additional 1,000 miniatures of Arab, Persian, Central Asian, Pre-Mughal, Mughal, Deccani, and later Mughal schools of Delhi, Lucknow, Kashmir, Lahore, Rampur, and Rajasthan have been examined and catalogued. 'Jambudvipa[3] - Indian Philosophy and Hinduism' provides links to sites devoted to Indian Philosophy and Hinduism, Kashmir Saivism, history and teachings of Kashmir (JAMBUDVIPA, 2009).

Pandita (2005a) Research and Publication Department of Jammu and Kashmir lists 17 manuscripts about history of medieval Kashmir generally written in Farsi[4]. Sri Ranbir Sanskrit Research Institute Jammu produced a descriptive catalogue of Sanskrit Manuscripts most of them are in Devanagari[5] and Sharada[6] script reflecting the cultural heritage of Kashmir (MISHRA, 2004).

Tambo (2003) states, H. A. Walter - India/Kashmir Photograph album a photo album with 252 b/w photos, mainly taken during 1912-1916, of H. A. Walter and family in India and Kashmir reflecting local scenes and people, especially around Srinagar is preserved in Davidson Library of University of California. The Kashmir Bhawan Centre, through its inspiring team with the fullest cooperation and support of the Bodleian Library and funds granted by the Heritage Lottery Fund, began a project to create a website on Stein's Kashmir legacy. The major content hosted on the website includes some Sanskrit manuscripts from Stein's collection, together with their translation into English, Stein's photograph collection etc. (PANDITA, 2005b).

'Kashmir Web links' provides links to other Internet resources which describe the background, history and current events in Kashmir (UNITED…, 2005). Letters of John Wilson (1804-1875), Missionary and Orientalist comprises letters from Wilson at Harewood Glen relating to his 'journeying' in the Himalaya Range, Kashmir, and other countries on India Border (UNIVERSITY…, 2009).

The 3rd volume of Rieu's Catalogue reveals that the Manuscripts on the history of Kashmir, available in the British Museum, London, are nine in number (GANJOO, [n.a.]). In an another study he reveals that while Sir Aurel Stein's study on Kashmir during 1888 to 1900 collected 368 manuscripts about Kashmir and deposited them to Indian Institute Bodlien Library Oxford (IIBLO), in 1911. The

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National Library of India has separate Indian language division for Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu languages with Kashmiri division that became an independent division in 1983 having 500 Kashmir books (COLLECTIONS…, [n.a.]).

Khuda Baksh Khan Library is a repository of nearly 2 lakh printed books and 22,000 very rare manuscripts. It also preserves artifacts of Kashmir (KHUDA…, 2003). Muktobodha Indological Research Institute[7] examines that Harry Spier implemented a project of building a digital library covering texts of Kashmir Shaivism. Sanskrit manuscripts in Devanagari, old Nevari and Granatha script were included in the Library.

Kaul ([n.a.]) reveals that Pandit Dinnath Yaksh as a copyist in Jammu and Kashmir Research and Publication Department established a section on Kashmir School of Art and Paintings, which contain some 500 rare Kashmiri paintings and miniatures. Dogra Art Museum (2009) houses about 800 rare and exquisite paintings from different schools of paintings-viz: Basholi, Jammu and Kangra. The Museum also has hand written manuscripts of Shahnama and Sikandernama both in Persian. The British Library's Kashmiri collections contain 7 manuscripts, principally vocabularies and poetry in the Perso-Arabic script; approximately 300 printed books dating from the early 19th century to the present day (BRITISH LIBRARY…, 2010).

7 ANALYSIS OF DATA

Collection was classified into three categories i.e. rare books, manuscripts and images. Table 1 shows that image collection about Kashmir is strongest (52.71%) followed by rare books (41.3%) and manuscripts (6.07%) in 21 libraries. Among the institutes surveyed India Office Library possesses a maximum collection (34.65%), followed by British library (27.3%), and Library of Congress (7.99%). While as collection in other libraries is in the range of 0.15-3.97% with the least collection of 0.15% National Library of Thailand.

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Library of Congress holds a maximum collection of 17.9% of rare books, followed by British Library 15.8%, while as the rare books in other libraries lie in the range of 0.45%-9.2%, with the least collection of 0.36% in Washington University Library, except India Office Library that does not hold any collection of rare books. The India Office Library holds a maximum collection of 88.6% of manuscripts, followed by British library 4.2%, while in other libraries range of manuscript collection varies from 0.0%-3%. The India Office has a maximum collection of 55.8% of images, followed by British Library 39.4%, and the range of image collection in other libraries is 0%-2.4%.

Table 1: Collections of select libraries pertaining Kashmir.

Library	Rare Books	Manuscripts	Images	Total
Bodleian Library	61 (5.5)	Nil	Nil	61 (2.28)
British Library	174 (15.8)	7 (4.32)	554 (39.4)	735 (27.5)
Cambridge University Library	101 (9.2)	Nil	Nil	101 (3.78)
Cornell University Library	84(7.6)	Nil	Nil	84 (3.14)
Edinburgh University Library	32 (2.9)	Nil	Nil	32 (1.19)
India Office Library	Nil	147 (90.7)	785 (55.8)	932 (34.9)
Leiden University Library	67 (6.1)	Nil	34 (2.4)	101 (3.78)
Library of Congress	197 (17.9)	2 (1.2)	4 (0.3)	202 (7.56)
McGill University Library	22 (2)	Nil	Nil	22 (0.81)
National Library of Australia	20 (1.8)	2 (1.2)	Nil	22 (0.81)
National Library of Canada	15 (1.4)	Nil	Nil	15 (0.55)
National Library of Thailand	5 (0.45)	Nil	Nil	5 (0.18)
Newberry Library	38 (3.4)	Nil	Nil	38 (1.4)
North Western University Library	20 (1.8)	Nil	Nil	20 (0.73)
University of British Columbia Library	29 (2.6)	Nil	Nil	29 (1.07)
University of Michigan Library	40 (3.6)	Nil	Nil	40 (1.48)
University of Princeton Library	50 (4.5)	1 (0.62)	2 (0.14)	53 (1.96)
University of Virginia Library	18 (1.63)	Nil	Nil	18 (0.66)
Washington University Library	4 (0.36)	1 (1.32)	Nil	5 (0.18)

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Welcome Institute London	17 (1.5)	1 (1.32)	29 (2.1)	47 (1.76)
Yale University Library	106 (9.6)	1 (1.32)	Nil	107 (3.97)
Total	**1102 (41.3)**	**162 (6.07)**	**1407 (52.71)**	**2669 (100)**

Note: Numbers between parentheses represent %.

The Table 2 shows that among the surveyed libraries India Office Library holds rich manuscript collection on all the identified subjects. British Library manuscript collection confines to the field of history (40%). National Library of Australia possesses 9.09% and 20% on dairies and history respectively. While as the remaining libraries have 1.9% manuscripts collection other than the identified subjects.

Table 2: Subject of Collection (Manuscripts).

Library	Correspondence	Travelogue	Memories	Dairies	Accounts	Gilgit[8]	Dispute	History	Others	Total
British Library	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2 (40)	5 (9.4)	7 (4.3)
Library of Congress	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2 (3.8)	2 (1.2)
India Office Library	36 (100)	13 (100)	16 (100)	10 (90.9)	5 (100)	9 (100)	11 (100)	2 (40)	45 (79.2)	147 (90.7)
National Library of Australia	Nil	Nil	Nil	1 (9.09)	Nil	Nil	Nil	1 (20)	Nil	2 (1.2)
University of Princeton	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1 (1.9)	1 (0.67)
Washington University Library	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1 (1.9)	1 (0.67)
Welcome Institute London	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1 (1.9)	1 (0.67)
Yale University Library	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1 (1.9)	1 (0.67)
Total	**36 (22)**	**13 (8)**	**16 (10)**	**11 (7)**	**5 (3)**	**9 (6)**	**11 (7)**	**5 (3)**	**53 (33)**	**162**

Note: Numbers between parentheses represent %.

The Table 3 depicts that among the selected libraries of 5 countries surveyed the treasure of Kashmir collection lies maximum in Great Britain (71.16%), followed

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by United States of America (25.3%), Canada (2.5%), Australia (0.81%) and Thailand (0.18%).

Table 3: Collection available by country.

Location/Country	Library Surveyed	Total
Australia	National Library of Australia	22
Canada	National Library of Canada McGill University Library University of British Columbia	66
Great Britain	Bodleian Library Oxford British Library Cambridge University Library Edinburgh University Library India Office Library Welcome Institute London	1,908
Thailand	National Library of Thailand	5
United States Of America	Cornell University Library Newberry Library North-Western University Library Princeton University Library Library of Congress Leiden University Library Michigan University Library Virginia University Library Washington University Library Yale University Library	668

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NOTES

1 The Śaivismo ou Śivaísmo (Shaivism) is the oldest of the four sects of Hinduism. The followers of Shaivism, called Saivite (Shaivites), revere Shiva (Shiva) as the Supreme. The Shaivites believe that

Shiva is everything and in all, as creator, preserver, destroyer, and one that reveals and protects all that exists. Available: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaivism>.

2 Jammu and Kashmir is the northernmost state of India. It is situated mostly in the Himalayan Mountains. Jammu and Kashmir shares a border with the states of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab to the south and internationally with the People's Republic of China to the north and east and the Pakistani territories of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit–Baltistan, to the west and northwest respectively. Jammu and Kashmir consists of three regions: Jammu, the Kashmir valley and Ladakh. Srinagar is the summer capital, and Jammu is the winter capital. While the Kashmir valley is famous for its beautiful mountainous landscape, Jammu's numerous shrines attract tens of thousands of Hindu pilgrims every year. Ladakh, also known as 'Little Tibet', is renowned for its remote mountain beauty and Buddhist culture. Available: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jammu_and_Kashmir>.

3 Jambudvīpa is the dvipa (island' or 'continent') of the terrestrial world, as envisioned in the cosmologies of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism, which is the realm where ordinary human beings live. Although the description given below does not go with the Jainism description of Jambudvipa and its surroundings, the word Jambudvipa holds a very important place in Jain Cosmology, and has a different architecture. Available: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jambudvipa>.

4 Persian is an Iranian language within the Indo-Iranian branch of the Indo-European languages. It is primarily spoken in Iran and known by Persian speakers as Farsi or Parsi, Afghanistan (officially known as "Dari" since 1958 for political reasons), Tajikistan (officially known as "Tajik" since the Soviet era), and other countries which historically came under Persian influence. The Persian language is classified as a continuation of Middle Persian, the official religious and literary language of Sassanid Persia, itself a continuation of Old Persian, the language of the Persian Empire in the Achaemenid era. Persian is a pluricentric language and its grammar is similar to that of many contemporary European languages. Available: < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_language>.

5 The Nāgarī or Devanāgarī alphabet developed from eastern variants of the Gupta script called Nāgarī, which first emerged during the 8th century. This script was starting to resemble the modern Devanāgarī alphabet by the 10th century, and started to replace Siddham from about 1200. The name Devanāgarī is made up of two Sanskrit words: deva, which means god, brahman or celestial, and nāgarī, which means city. The name is variously translated as "script of the city", "heavenly/sacred script of the city" or "[script of the] city of the Gods or priests". Available: <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/devanagari.htm>.

6 The Śāradā, or Sharada is an abugida writing system of the Brahmic family of scripts, developed around the 8th century. It was used for writing Sanskrit and Kashmiri. The Gurmukhī script was developed from Śāradā. Originally more widespread, its use became later restricted to Kashmir, and it is now rarely used except by the Kashmiri Pandit community for ceremonial purposes. Śāradā is another name for Saraswati, the goddess of learning. Available: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sharada_script>.

7 The mission of the Muktabodha Indological Research Institute is to preserve endangered texts from the religious and philosophical traditions of classical India and make them accessible for study. Available: <http://www.muktabodha.org/>.

8 Gilgit is the capital city of Gilgit-Baltistan, which is a self-governing territory under Pakistani control but which, constitutionally, is not actually part of Pakistan. Gilgit-Baltistan, formerly known as the Northern Areas, presently consists of nine districts, namely, Astore, Diamir, Ghizer, Gilgit, Hunza-Nagar, Ghanche, Kharmang, Shigar, and Skardu. The dominant tribe of Gilgit-Baltistan is the Shin, and Shina is the language spoken by a majority of the population from Ghizer in Gilgit-Baltistan to Kohistan in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. The town of Gilgit constitutes a tehsil within the Gilgit District. The town's ancient name was Sargin, later to be known as Gilit, and it is still referred to as Gilit or Sargin-Gilit by local people. In the Burushaski language, it is named Geelt and in Wakhi and Khowar it is called Gilt. Ghallata is considered its name in ancient Sanskrit literature. The town of Gilgit is one of two major hubs in Gilgit-Baltistan for mountaineering expeditions to

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the Karakoram and other peaks in the Himalayas, the other hub being Skardu. Available: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilgit>.

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